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Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-03 SP-02 /041 W
---------- 086898
R 231033Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1278
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0191

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, QA
SUBJ: FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMIR OF QATAR'S COUP

1. FEB 22 WAS FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, AMIR OF QATAR'S DEPOSITION OF HIS COUSIN, SHAYKH AHMAD BIN ALI AL THANI. THE OCCASION RECEIVED NO RPT NO OFFICIAL NOTICE IN THE SENSE THAT IT WAS A REGULAR WORKDAY, THERE WERE NO PUBLICIZED CABLES OF CONGRATULATIONS, ETC.

2. HOWEVER, THE GOVT-CONTROLLED TV AND RADIO, AND GOVT-SUPERVISED PRINT MEDIA, VIGOROUSLY APPLAUDED THE ANNIVERSARY AND THE "CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT", WHICH IS THE LOCAL EUPHEMISM FOR KHALIFA'S COUP. ALL OF FEB 22 EVENING TV PRIME TIME WAS DEVOTED TO AMIR'S ACHIEVEMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD. THERE WERE FILMS OF AMIR'S STATE VISITS DURING PAST YEAR, AND OF QATAR "BEFORE AND AFTER", DEPICTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS IN COUNTRY UNDER AMIR'S RULE. FILMS WERE INTERSPERSED WITH LOCAL POETS AND VOCALISTS SINGING AMIR'S PRAISES. LOCAL DAILY AND WEEKLY PERIODICALS EDITORIALLY COMMENTED ON AMIR'S BENEFICENT REIGNKN AND WERE FULL
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OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM LOCAL NOTABLES AND BUSINESS

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COMMUNITY.

3. COMMENT: THIS PAEAN OF MEDIA PRAISE IS PLAYING AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF CONTINUING RUMBLINGS OF DISCONTENT OVER MORE VISIBLE FLAWS IN KHALIFA'S RUNNING OF COUNTRY. LOCAL OBSERVERS HAVE COMMENTED THAT THEY BELIEVE THE CULT-OF-PERSONALITY-TYPE APPLAUSE THAT ANNIVERSARY GENERATED IS INSPIRED BY AMIR'S SYCOPHANTIC ADVISORS, AND STRIKES PARTICULARLY SOUR NOTE WITH GROWING NUMBER OF HIS CRITICS, WHO POINT OUT THAT AMIR'S SUSCEPTIBILITY TO THIS TYPE OF PROPAGANDA INHIBITS HIS MOVING AGAINST THE MALADMINISTRATION, ABUSE AND CORRUPTION PERPETRATED BY THESE ADVISORS.
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